



## 2013 Fish Stocking and Sampling

By Matt Bosworth, Wetlands Coordinator

Good news, fishermen! The Kickapoo Environmental Office is collaborating with several agencies to improve the Tribe's fisheries. The Kansas Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) graciously volunteered their electro fishing boat and time to sample several of our ponds. Electro fishing involves stunning fish with electricity so the fish can be measured, weighed, and then released, unharmed. Local KDWP fish biologist Kirk Tjelmeland, has been a huge help in assessing the fish population in 3 different ponds. We found that the ponds were very overfished and stressed with lots of small undersized fish and with few large adults. This is the result of heavy fishing pressure with no extra stocking of fish to keep the populations healthy.

We've used the information gathered from electro fishing and have coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery out of Yankton, SD to provide us with bass, crappie, and bluegill. The request included approximately 4,500 bass, 4,000 crappie, and 11,500 bluegill fingerlings. We are able to obtain these fish at a very minimal cost. If these were bought at a local hatchery it would have cost over \$11,000! We plan on stocking 6-8 ponds with these fish. It will take a couple years until these fish are big enough for a frying pan. But once they are, the ponds selected for fish stocking will be guaranteed to be great places to fish.

Due to the interest that we've heard about cat fishing, we're also exploring the possibility of working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery out of southern Oklahoma to stock 5" catfish in several ponds. If you're interested in which ponds will be stocked or have input for which ponds you'd like stocked, feel free to call or stop by the office.

## The Poetic Beauty of Trees

By Scott Weir, Air Quality Coordinator

In 1913, the poet, Joyce Kilmer, wrote:

**"I think that I shall never see  
a poem lovely as a tree."**

This simple poem goes on to reflect on the beauty and role of trees in creation.

Trees are certainly worthy of such praise. They are an important part of our environment, providing habitat and food for wildlife, as well as nuts and fruits for human consumption.

Trees provide shade in spring and summer, block wind in winter, and also reduce glare. Carefully placed trees can therefore reduce heating and cooling costs, and even enhance the physical and visual effects of architectural design. Because of their strength, beauty and long life, we often plant trees as living memorials.

Trees also help clean the air by trapping particulate contaminants with their leaves and also by taking in gaseous pollutants through the pores in their leaves. They breathe in carbon dioxide, biochemically use the carbon molecule and release oxygen back into the air. In this way, trees help to control carbon dioxide levels in the air, and provide oxygen for us to breathe.

Trees also physically reduce the impact of raindrops, sleet and hail. They slow the rate of storm water runoff, and their fibrous root systems help hold the soil together while enhancing the infiltration of rainwater into the ground. In this way, trees reduce soil erosion and help keep harmful pollutants out of our streams and lakes.

Yes, trees are lovely and amazing. Whenever we plant a tree, we are enhancing our environment in numerous ways.

# The Green Clan

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*Working Together for a Better  
Community!*

## Successful Earth Day Cleanup

Earth Day 2013 was a successful event thanks to the many community members and employees who participated, despite chilly weather and muddy ground. The entire staff extends a special recognition to Krista and Richard Vanderblomen for taking 1st and 2nd place in the Earth Day art competition.



## Spring Pest Control

By Mike Kelley, Brownfields Coordinator

Assuming the cold weather and snow showers will ever come to an end, spring will soon be arriving. Along with the warm sun and pleasant weather, the change in seasons will herald the reappearance of many insect species. Here are a few tips on how to steer insects away from setting up camp in your home.

A good place to start is keeping piles of dirt or debris away from the baseboards of your house. By adding crushed rock around flower and shrubbery beds instead of mulch, you will eliminate food and habitats for sow bugs, centipedes, millipedes and many other insects.

Other bits of yard debris such as dead plants, ripened fruits, weeds, and fallen branches can be an attractive habitat to insects. Try to leave as little of these around as possible. Reduce plant coverage around the foundation of your home. Remove leaves and other debris under decks, in window wells, and behind bushes to eliminate decaying organic matter that may provide food and habitat for pests.

A majority of pesky insects like to hang out in dark damp locations. It's best to try and eliminate these conditions by reducing the moisture in the air with dehumidifiers, fans, and open windows or air conditioners. Try to keep the humidity in your home below 40%. Additionally, anything that can hold standing water is an ideal place for mosquitoes to lay eggs. Eliminate as many sources of standing water as possible.

And as always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about insects or dumpsites, feel free to contact me at the Environmental Office: [Mike.kelley@ktik-nsn.gov](mailto:Mike.kelley@ktik-nsn.gov) or call 785-486-2601 ext. 6.